

Friends of Christ Church Cathedral **NEWS**

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50p



Christ Church Cathedral, Canterbury.

PATRON: The Archbishop of Dublin • **CHAIRMAN:** the Dean of Christ Church

VICE CHAIRMEN: The Archdeacon of Dublin • The Archdeacon of Glendalough

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO: The Hon. Membership Sec., Lyle McNab, The Chapter House, Christchurch Place, Dublin 8.

MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTIONS: Individual - £5 • Family - £7.50 • Overseas - \$10 • Friends are asked to give more if they can.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Such was the furore that followed the Bishop of Durham's revelation that our old friends, the Three Wise Men were not necessarily factual that the Dean felt constrained to preach a special sermon on the subject. His address on the Bishop's statement is reproduced in full in this Newsletter. I am sure it will be eagerly read by the Friends. In these days of political correctness they would have to be referred to as the Three Wise Persons though I do find it difficult to think of craftspersonship or workpersonship. Recently the staff at a biscuit factory refused to pack the Gingerbread Man. The Gingerbread Person does not turn me on - it's probably old age. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the Newsletter, to

the Dean for his double contribution and for his amicability in putting up with his editor, to Annette Camier for her Canterbury Tales, to Sheila Lynch for allowing us share in happy memories, to Dr. Kenneth Milne for updating us on the wonderful work he and his helpers are doing on the Cathedral records, to Leslie Taylor for his piece on the Bellringers and to Roberta Collins for her recollections of the Bible Come to Life Exhibition. The next edition of the Newsletter should (DV) be published in early May when we will inform you of Day Trips, Annual General Meeting, Second Annual Dinner, Strawberry Lunch and the October Pilgrimage.

PAINTING COMPETITION

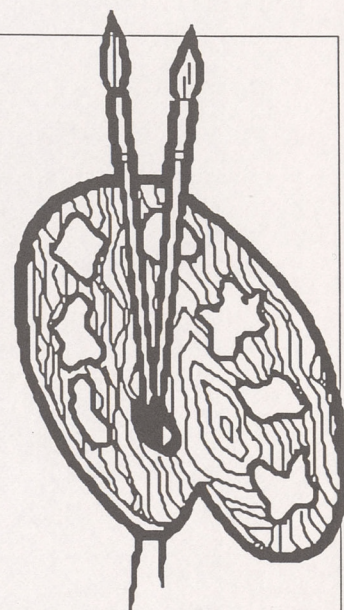
It might be said that what was lacking in quantity was made up in quality. Though entries were few and some, with independent artistic licence, strayed away from the guidelines, a very attractive exhibition was mounted at the Christmas Sale of Work. The panel of judges, unable to arrive at a single winner nominated four entries. Not having to pay for the prizes made them agreeably generous but we applaud their sagacity and thank them for the care they took in reaching their decision.

RESULTS

Best Country Church: Sylvia Tennant
Best City Church: Avril Price
Best Landscape: Hazel Rosco
Best Flower Painting: Eva Thompson.

Suitable gift tokens will wend their way to the winners and we most sincerely thank them and all of the other contributors for taking part.

Readers will be interested to know that arising out of the competition our funds will benefit from the sale of two beautiful paintings presented by that well known West of Ireland artist, Derek Biddulph, and he deserves our thanks for his most generous gift.



LETTER FROM THE DEAN

February 1994

Dear Friends of Christ Church:

So much seems to be happening around the cathedral these days that life for everyone can sometimes be rather more than just pleasantly busy. Increasing numbers of visitors, though greatly helping with our finances, also bring increased wear and tear. More "Please do not touch" notices have to appear; ropes are needed to fence off no-go areas - even the archbishop's throne and the choir and chapter stalls - and floor-tiles frequently seem to work themselves loose.

The years also take their toll on the fabric. Our major task this year is the renewal of the Library end of the Chapter House facing Lord Edward Street. It is presently literally falling away from the main fabric of the Chapter House - the cracks are more than an inch wide in places - and the walls will have to be "stitched" back and the roofs renewed and re-leaded. This will necessitate expensive piling which will be done after Easter. Next year's task will be the renewal of the 12th century crypt which will be a mammoth job costing as much as one million pounds. Cathedral architect Paul Arnold is already preparing plans for both schemes.

Yet our visitors are welcome - and not just for their financial contribution. We welcome them "in the name of the Lord". They come, not just to an ancient building, but to a Christian church where worship has been celebrated for nearly a thousand years. Nowadays they are welcomed and encouraged to view the building by using leaflets produced in no less than eight different languages. Yet not just to view, but also to pray. And a great many do: sometimes in the nave; more often in the peace chapel and in the Lady chapel where they leave requests for others to remember in their prayers. Total strangers comment on the atmosphere of prayer that hits them as they enter the cathedral. That is as it should be.

Numbers attending services over Christmas showed considerable increases. The nave overflowed into the aisles for the main carol service; 302 (at least half of them under 30) were at the midnight eucharist and 200 at the Christmas morning celebration at which the archbishop both presided and preached. Some three thousand people thronged Christchurch Place for the ringing-in of the new year - this year with the bells seen on television.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a list of events taking place in the cathedral during the year. Friends are always welcome at these as well as at all the usual Sunday and weekday services.

From all in the cathedral we send you our good wishes for 1994.

Sincerely,

John Paterson

The Very Reverend John Paterson, Dean of Christ Church, Dublin, Ireland

YOUR COMMITTEE

In case readers may not all be aware of the composition of the Committee of the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral we publish the names hereunder;

OFFICERS

Patron: The Archbishop

Chairman: The Dean

V. Chairmen The Archdeacons of Dublin and Glendalough.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Terence Read (Hon. Sec.), David Bockett (Hon. Treas.), Lyle McNab (Hon. Membership Sec.), Harry Carroll, Irene Drew, Valerie Hade, Stuart Kinsella, Dr. Kenneth Milne, Dorothy Pennyfeather, Lesley Rue and Elizabeth Tracey.

Many and varied are the talents which they bring to further the objects of the Friends. And many are the tasks which the Committee members

perform because of their love of the Cathedral. This, relatively, small band undertakes the running of outings and a major pilgrimage each year as well as Christmas and Easter Sales of Work. Operating the Cathedral shop in a most professional manner, welcoming visitors, publishing a newsletter, caring for ancient books, repairing and replacing delicate fabric are just some of the jobs cheerfully undertaken by the members. Other skills in Engineering and Computer Science are also made freely available for the benefit of the Cathedral. Of course, there is also heavy reliance on Friends who prefer not to serve on committee but whose help in the shop and Welcome Area is invaluable. But most especially they depend on the support which you, the general body of Friends, give so unstintingly. Without your help and encouragement even the most dedicated committee person might flag.

Thank You

Though our Friends understandably are most particularly interested in their own cathedral they do have a healthy curiosity about others in this country and in Britain. We are indebted to Annette Camier for her fascinating and entertaining account of the Friends pilgrimage to Canterbury last October. As a supplement to Annette's worthy contribution perhaps some readers who are interested in ecclesiastical trivia, i.e. the largest, smallest, oldest, etc. might get some entertainment from the following data culled from here and there.

Armagh, 443 AD might claim to be the oldest while Liverpool is the youngest. The smallest is probably Carlisle where the nave is only 39' long. York Minster seldom called St. Peter's Cathedral, is the largest medieval English Cathedral and has one of the biggest bells named Great Peter

and weighing 12 tons.

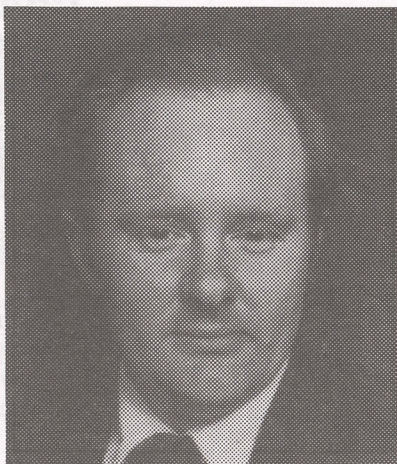
Cathedral Trivia

The tallest spire is in Salisbury but Lincoln can claim the highest tower. Chichester is the only English Cathedral with a separate bell-tower and, very unusual, Liverpool's cathedral stretches almost north and south instead of east and west. St. Patrick's in Dublin is Ireland's National Cathedral but the Primate's seat is in Armagh. The chained library is in Hereford where 2,000 books are chained to bookcases as well as to the original desks and seats. Hereford also possesses one of the oldest known maps of the world, the famous Mappa Mundi so recently in the news. Probably the best known stained glass window is Five Sisters in York. Chester, so well-known to Friends, was the first to have a Children's Corner. And, a purely personal view, one of the loveliest is Christ Church, Dublin.

BEHIND THE SCENES

One statistic in regard to the Cathedral gives an indication that much work goes on behind the scenes. That statistic relates to the number of visitors who come to look at, and enjoy, a church with such a history. Surprisingly, well over 150,000 men, women and children came to visit in 1993. This figure is exclusive of worshippers on such big occasions as the G.B. and Citizenship Services. May, June, July and August are the really big months accounting for over 95,000 of the year's total. Visitors are welcome and would be even if they did not contribute a goodly sum towards the upkeep of the Cathedral. Remember we do not receive State aid. To help visitors enjoy their visit a leaflet setting out the Cathedral's history in easily readable form has been prepared in several languages and there is also one specially prepared for the many schoolchildren who form a large part of the total. But leaflets alone would not make a visitor feel wanted. Volunteers who assist Charles Bentley at the welcome Desk include Irene Drew, Jo Wilkinson, Hazel Bredin, Bill Stephen, Stuart Kinsella, Jack Anderson and June Heather, and contribute hugely to making the visitors feel that they are coming into a warm and lively atmosphere far removed from a museum or art gallery. Special mention should be made of Bill Brunty who as unofficial "uncle" is particularly well loved for his "guiding" stories. Many a nun asks especially to know if Uncle Bill will be on duty when making their arrangements to visit. "And it's always so shining" is a comment frequently heard even on a day of typical Irish weather when the rain is pouring down and shoes are muddy.

Caretaker Denise McGowan and Sacristan Barry Farrell are always on hand to keep the Cathedral looking so well and Dean's Verger Freddy McKeown, apart from verging duties on Sundays and for



Barry Farrell, Sacristan.

special services is always ready to deputise when other staff members have their days off. The Cathedral is open seven days a week. Carmel McCann is the Dean's Secretary - one is inclined to overlook the amount of detailed secretarial work which is involved in running what is a large enterprise in business terms. One other job, sadly, has to be filled - it's a sign of the times. Strangely the Cathedral needs security officers and Michael Browne has this unenviable task. The shop helpers complete the lay team of volunteers and Valerie Hade who has overall responsibility for this area sings the praises of more than forty Friends for their generous contribution of time and energy.

BARRY WRITES:

Christmas can be a busy time for many people, especially for those involved in churches. There were extra services in the Cathedral. These included a carol service in Irish, which was well attended, the Inner City Carol Service, which was held at lunchtime on Thursday 16 December. This is a recent innovation and helps to raise funds for charity. This year Barnardo's benefitted.

The main carol service on the Monday evening before Christmas has become increasingly popular in recent times. I think that there was a special atmosphere in the Cathedral during this service and afterwards many people phoned to say how much they had enjoyed it.



Freddy McKeown, Dean's Verger.

The midnight Eucharist also has seen a considerable rise in numbers, especially since the choir started singing at it. On Christmas morning the Archbishop celebrated and preached as usual. Christmas is a time of peace and goodwill and there was plenty of the Christmas spirit around the Cathedral.

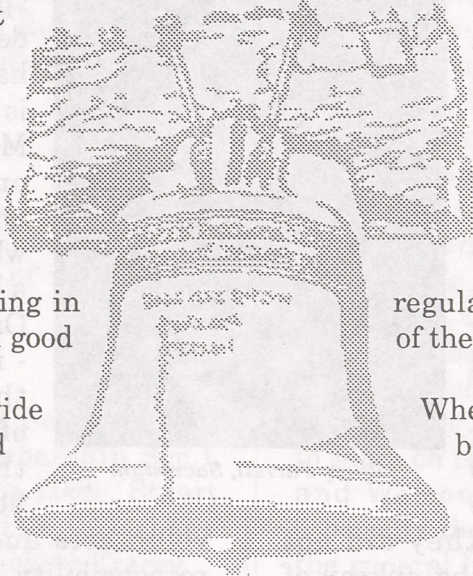
Ding Dong! Merrily on High.

(Contributed by Leslie Taylor, Hon. Ringing Master)

We ringers, in our tower, are not highly visible, and most of us are quite happy with that. But at New Year cameras invaded our eyrie and we are seen blinking in the light. This year we have appeared in the Evening Herald, The Daily Star and The Irish Press - pictures and stories, showing in many cases our junior ringers in a good light.

And we have been heard far and wide too. Channel Four Television and Network 2 recorded our New Year ringing for a programme celebrating new beginnings, as wished for, in three countries - South Africa, the Czech Republic and here in Ireland. We were broadcast live on RTE Radio 1 - the Dean speaking well of us to presenter Donnacsha O'Dulaing - and were heard also on Anna Livia radio. Finally, we have been recorded for a children's programme "The Works", to be shown in mid-January.

John and Billy Clarke and I are intending, in mid-January, to begin completing the installation of the simulator for use on all bells. At present



the simulator is linked to one bell only and enables one ringer at a time to ring as if with a full complement of ringers, his or her pulling of the rope registering as a sound on the computer in place (right) or out of place (wrong) among the automatically regulated and perfectly accurate sounds of the other bells.

When all bells are "hooked up" we will be able, when necessary, to practise in a group unheard from outside.

"Hooking up" involves aiming two sets of "magic eyes" on each bell

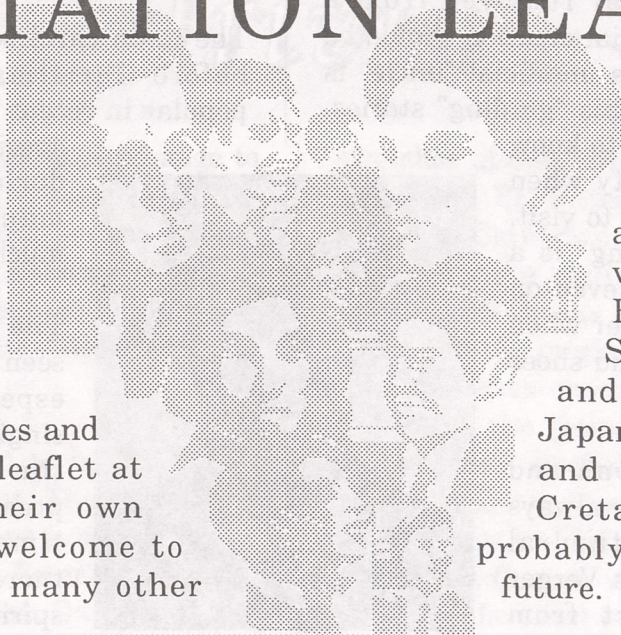
and also, since the real sound of each bell must be silenced for the duration of simulated practice., we must make restraints to temporarily prevent the tongues hitting the bells. The Cathedral Board has bought us the extra electronic equipment needed, for which we are very grateful, but we will have to make the restraints ourselves and this may take some time. The sounds coming out are digitised recordings of the bells of Worcester Cathedral, whose tenor is in the same note as ours.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS

"Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language." Acts 2 v 6.

Perhaps the Parthians, Medes and Elamites might not get a leaflet at the Welcome Desk in their own language bidding them welcome to Christ Church. However, many other

nationalities would and short accounts of the history of the Cathedral are now available for visitors in English, Irish, French, German, Dutch, Swedish, Spanish, Italian and, believe it or not, Japanese. Natives of Phrygia and Pamphylia as well as Cretans and Arabians will probably get theirs in the near future.



This sketch is said to be the oldest picture of Christ Church. We have adopted it as the Archives Advisors Committee logo. It is taken from the Rev. John L. Robinson's 'Handbook to the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin' (1914).



Sketch by William Wright, 1655.

ARCHIVES UPDATE

It is good to be able to report continuing progress, and to have this opportunity to tell the Friends that much of what has been achieved is thanks to their help, especially in the matter of conservation.

It is vital that books and manuscripts are properly cared for, and we have embarked on a programme of restoring some important items that had fallen into disrepair. The work is being done at Marsh's Library which has facilities for conservation that are second to none, and is being paid for with generous help from the Friends.

Probably our two greatest treasures (among many) are the medieval Black Book and White Book. We depend on the Black Book, not only for our knowledge of the early years of the Cathedral itself, but also for important information about various aspects of political history. The White Book is particularly important because it is a record of charters, leases, rentals, and events associated with Christ Church. Both books are in the professional care of the Representative Church Body Library and we are having 'phase boxes' made to contain them.

We are also continuing our policy of purchasing books, pamphlets and other material that relates to the Cathedral. Most recently, we obtained two important papers by Professor Geoffrey Hand, that originally appeared in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, dealing with medieval disputes in which the Cathedral was involved.

Observant Friends may have noticed that a start has been made on moving into the crypt some loose stones from the old chapterhouse that line the path to the south-west door. In their new position they will be secure, and available for study. Incidentally, the trojan task of moving them was undertaken by two members of the Archives Advisory Committee, Lesley Rue and Stuart Kinsella, both of whom, as it happens, are also on the committee of the Friends.

The next development will be the establishment of a library and archives in the Cathedral, not only for storage purposes, but also where scholars can consult our collection. We have our eye on a particular spot, and hope shortly to be able to report progress in that direction.

Kenneth Milne,
Keeper of the Archives.

BIBLE COME TO LIFE EXHIBITION A BIGGER BIBLE

Christ Church Cathedral was the beautiful setting where the "Bible Come to Life" was held from 29th September to October 2nd 1993.

It is a mobile exhibition which was 100 years old in 1991! Now renovated it was back in Dublin where it has not been seen for twenty-seven years.

The exhibition is sponsored by CMJ - The Church's Ministry among the Jews - and its aim is that people will see the Eastern and Jewish roots of the Bible and of the Christian faith.

They have wonderfully made models of the Tabernacle, Herod's Temple and the City of Jerusalem and there are some items on display that are thousands of years old.

Every morning there was a special programme for schools when the exhibition was open to the public. Special talks were given on subjects such as the High Priest, village life in Biblical times and Eastern brides. These talks were illustrated with genuine costumes of the time some of which are very old and valuable.

For me the highlight of the four days was the last talk on the Passover meal given by Alan Stracey - a Jewish believer in Jesus as Messiah. He showed us the great wealth of meanings each symbolical action, item of food, and the four cups of wine have. We were able to see how the Jewish people were trained by the Lord to remember Him in everything. I often thought of King Solomon's words, "Remember also your Creator in the ways of your youth ... before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken". (Ecclesiastes 12:1a,6a)

It had been such a happy experience being one of the stewards on this exhibition. I could see the artistry of the Almighty in all the exhibits. And we were soaked in the visual beauty of the Cathedral surroundings. I learned so much that I only wish it had been on longer. If anyone missed it I heartily recommend that you go to Belfast next year where it will be on show again. I certainly came away from the "Bible Come to Life Exhibition" with a bigger Bible!

Roberta Collins.

An Irish Canterbury Tale.

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin greets Christ Church Cathedral, Canterbury

At Dublin Airport, on 8th October 1993, in the shiver of morning at 6 a.m., Valerie Hade, clipboard in hand, checks that each and every one of our pilgrim/tourist group of Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin is present for the early flight to Heathrow, which begins our weekend visit to Christ Church Cathedral, Canterbury.

Many cathedrals have been visited by the Friends, but as this was their first visit to our "Mother See" at Canterbury, it was keenly anticipated by everyone as something very special. This was made clear by the speed at which places were taken up - all of these were filled and a waiting list started, within two days of the opening of booking.

8.30 a.m., a comfortable, well-breakfasted flight, and the carpeted corridors of Heathrow that give such a good impression of being miles long, behind us, we are all thanks to Terence Read's efficiency en route to Canterbury by coach. We chat away happily as we view the Kent countryside - oast houses, ancient churches, orchards, hop-fields, half-timbered houses, fine castles, picturesque villages home to many famous people through the centuries.

Kent, which has the oldest recorded county name in England, was home to such diversley talented people as Winston Churchill, Charles Dickens, Victoria Sackville-West, and Joseph Conrad, (born Teodor Joseph Konrad Korzeniowski). Christopher Marlowe (1564 - 93) dramatist and poet, whose work is said to have influenced Shakespeare, was born in Canterbury, as was William Caxton (1422 - 1491) first English printer, who printed his first English text in 1474. Canterbury, in the east of Kent, 52 miles from London, on the banks of the River Stour, has from ancient times been central to many routes from the Kent coast to the capital. People are thought to have lived here from about 300 BC but the present city really dates from the Roman settlement of AD 43.

The Cathedral is the heart and the hub of Canterbury, and all of us, as we sped along through a fine Kent morning, were beginning to feel excited about our chance to spend some time there, around and about its precincts, fortified in between our forays by the comfort and good food of the County Hotel.

Geoffrey Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" - begun c. 1387

and regarded as the starting point of English literature - came to mind as we neared both that city and our hotel with the alluring prospect of morning coffee. Chaucer's 31 pilgrims (we had 50 +) had started out from The Tabard Inn, Southwark, on horseback (we had started from Ireland's Dublin Airport using horsepower, in various forms) and his host (Harry Bailey of The Tabard Inn) had devised a story-telling competition (2 stories each with a good supper as the prize) which our host (Terence Read) had, mercifully not required of us.

Chaucer's band included a Knight, a Squire, a Yeoman, a Miller, a Ploughman, a Shipman, a Physician (we managed this too - we had Dr. Alan Browne) a wife of Bath, a Lawyer, a Franklin, a merchant, a clerk of Oxford, Guild members, a Summoner, a Pardoner, and also, on the clerical side, a prioress, a monk, a Friar, a Nun's Priest, a second nun and a parson. We had as parsons, Dean Tom Salmon, Dean John Patterson, Archdeacon Harley Vanston and Rev. Bill Wilkinson. No one admitted to fitting into the other categories, as, of course we have occupations now which were unknown in the 14th century. If Chaucer were to devise his tales in our 20th century he would have to increase greatly his number of story-tellers.

The striking point is that, 600 years on, people like us still throng to Canterbury in huge numbers, to visit the Cathedral to worship and/or absorb the unique atmosphere there.

Our hotel, conveniently placed within 5 minutes walk of the Cathedral was right in the middle of High Street, the main shopping area. We had 3 full days - we were able to be out and about by late morning on Friday, having been allocated our rooms and given helpful information by Terence, who had planned this trip so that each person could have the maximum opportunity to see and do whatever was of interest. We had all of Saturday ahead of us, and Sunday morning until lunch at our hotel, when it was planned that we would leave by coach to visit Leeds Castle, Maidstone, going from there at about 6.30 p.m. to Heathrow, and our late flight home.

Parked, organised and refreshed - in our different choices of directions we sallied forth to experience Canterbury for ourselves.

The Cathedral, on a site thought to be in use by Christians for almost 2,000 years, really needs many visits, as there is so much to see and experience.

The Christ Church gateway built in 1517, is that usually used. This turreted entrance, decorated by shields and fine stonework, abuts the houses on either side, so that the impression is of the Cathedral as part of the continuum of the street in the middle of things, part of everyday life.

The Revd. Canon D. Ingram Hill D.D., shared with us his great knowledge of and love for the Cathedral when he guided us around, explaining that he had served here, in one office or another, for 70 years, beginning as a choirboy. What a marvellous record to have! We listened to him with real interest, noting the shields of famous individuals and families which adorned the cloister and porch ceilings, the marvellous treasures of stained glass, including the "miracle" windows recalling the miracles achieved by St. Thomas a Beckett (1118 - 1170) Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in his own Cathedral on 29th December, 1170, indignation at which act spread throughout Europe. Pilgrims still flock to the north-west transept where the foul deed was done. We saw the treasures of gold and silver in the crypt treasury, and walked through the crypt itself, dim and quiet. The French Huguenots, religious refugees, were given the use of this crypt for their services following the Massacre on St. Bartholomew's Day in 1572.

Our group attended Services in the Cathedral on both Saturday and Sunday. It was a wonderful experience to share in Services in such a place, redolent as it is, of the deep faith of many people through the centuries.

An invitation to tea with Canterbury's Canon Impact, Canon Peter Brett gave us the opportunity to meet with some of the Canterbury Friends who were founded in 1928 and were the first group of Friends anywhere.

Other places of absorbing interest in Canterbury include the Eastbridge Hospital founded in 1190 where poor pilgrims and the sick were accommodated when on pilgrimage. Blackfriars Refectory now used by the King's School; Greyfriars House, the oldest Franciscan building in England, bought in 1958 by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral; West Gate Museum; Canterbury Heritage Museum; The Weavers' Houses, built by Huguenot and Walloon refugees who brought their many skills to the city, and whose names are still found in Canterbury today, - Lepine, Delahaye, Lefevre, de Lasaux. Thomas de Lasaux, a wine merchant, had interestingly, been the licensee for a period from 1846 of our hotel and his family named it "Ye Old Vintner" in 1888.

Tours are operated on the River Stour from the Weavers' Houses area and an interesting exhibit is the

reproduction Ducking Stool said to have been last used in 1809, which warns of the Ducking due to unfaithful wives and to all butchers, bakers, brewers and apothecaries who give short measure.

Sunday afternoon, having bid farewell to our hotel, we visited Leeds Castle, in Maidstone. Run by the Leeds Castle Foundation which aims to:- "preserve the beauty of the Castle and its grounds for the enjoyment of the public in perpetuity: host conferences, including those for the advancement of medical research and to encourage the Arts" to quote from its handout leaflet.

A striking moated Castle, kept beautifully, with fresh flowers in every room, it is very well worth a visit, as is the unusual Dog Collar Museum and the Culpeper Garden, both in the grounds. Interesting wildlife abounds - a most attractive black swan with frilly feathers being only one of many unusual birds grazing or swimming happily, and taking very little notice of the visitors.

Poynter's Coach delivered us to Heathrow that evening, and as we knew fog was around we were glad to hear that our flight was to take off for Dublin on schedule and we were not to be diverted elsewhere. We had a Category 2 landing - on instruments - and we landed safely and on time.

Once again the Friends had had a great trip, seen new and familiar places, made new friends and renewed old friendships Mr and Mrs Petitt, for example, who hail from Cornwall, and who had travelled to join us. We all had a marvellous time, and great credit for the smooth running of our 3 days goes to all who helped organise in any way, and especially to Terence Read, organiser-in-chief and Valerie Hade. Replica Canterbury Crosses, bought in the Cathedral Close, are now worn with more knowledge and pride as we have visited the city from under whose streets the original was excavated last century.

This famous Saxon brooch, dating from c. AD 850 is now a symbol of the Church of Canterbury.

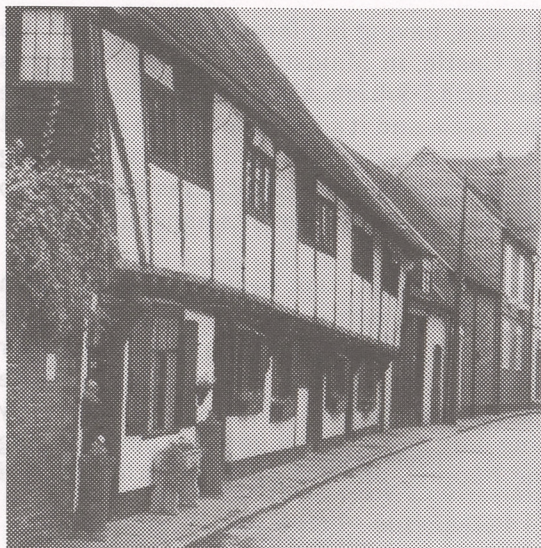
It was a great pleasure to join in this good-humoured and happy event of 8th - 10th October, 1993. The final word goes to Harry Carroll, who says: "They'll all want to know - where are we going next?"

Editor's Addendum:

And next time we will try to persuade Annette to travel once more. Meanwhile her Irish Canterbury Tale will have revived happy memories for the fifty pilgrims while giving real shared pleasure to the Friends who had been unable to join with them.

In the ideal group for a modern Chaucer's Tale perhaps we in the Protestant Church might omit the pardoner!

An Irish Canterbury Tale



Lovely cottages



Canon Hill and friends



A smiling Dean



The Chancel

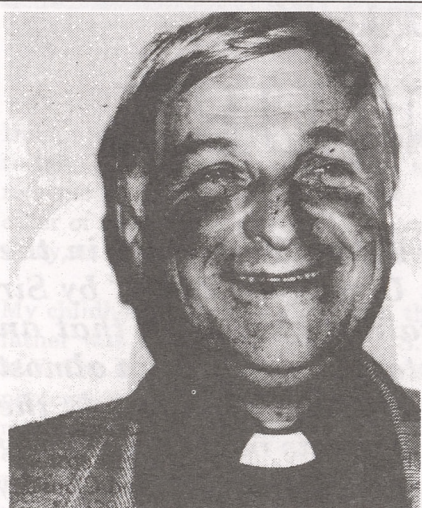


Annette at work



Shopping precinct

GOODBYE AND HELLO



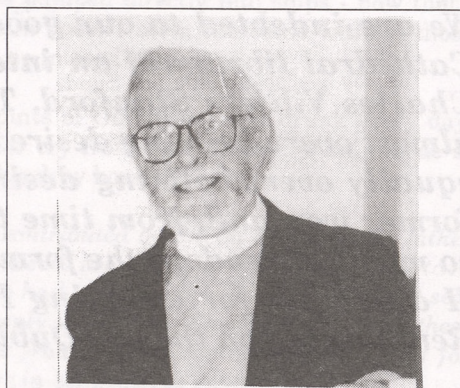
The New Archdeacon

Friends will be aware that under the Constitution, the officers of the

committee are the Dean as Chairman and the Archdeacons of Dublin and Glendalough as Vice-chairmen - should they be chair and vice-chairpersons? The Venerable Cecil Price, who retired from active ministry on January 7th, was most regular in his attendance at committee meetings. His gentle, kindly manner and suggestions will be sadly missed at the regular meetings of the Friends' Committee who look forward with eager anticipation to the arrival of his successor, the Rev. Canon Edgar Swann.

Most recently appointed as Canon of Christ Cathedral is the Rev. Raymond Smith, Rector of Powerscourt with Kilbride. When we

used to visit the parishes with the Christ Church Quiz there was always a hearty welcome in Powerscourt. We wish Raymond many happy years in his new responsibilities.



The New Canon

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS

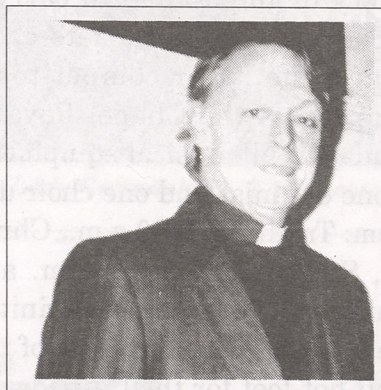


When Choir 500 was being celebrated in Christ Church last year another special landmark was about to be observed in Clontarf where two extremely popular and well-known Dubliners celebrated sixty years of happy marriage.

Though our congratulations are belated they are non-the-less genuine and we offer our best wishes to Robert and Betty McCullagh.

So well-known and loved are this couple that it would be superfluous for us further to extol their virtues here but we can let you into a little secret. Bob can still fit the suit he wore for the wedding and Betty, herself baked and iced the anniversary cake. We wish them both many more active, happy, singing and baking years among their loving family and countless others who hold them in such high esteem.

MOVING TO MULLINGAR



Canon D.P.R. Carmody lately vicar of Christ Church Cathedral Group became Rector of Mullingar in November. Our best wishes go with him in his new appointment. Pat has a great feel for motor cars. He will have plenty of opportunity to indulge his love of driving as he visits his well spread congregation.

Christmas Sale

The Annual Sale realised £1185 which is a wonderful tribute to Lesley Rue and her helpers and to the generosity of the Friends who supported it.

DUBLIN IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

We are indebted to our good Friend (and friend) Stella Mew for the arrival in the Cathedral library of an interesting memoir "Pages from an Unwritten Diary" by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford. This is so beautifully and entertainingly written that an almost overwhelming desire to publish extracts for your delectation combats an almost equally overwhelming desire to keep such a good thing to oneself. Fortunately the former won and, from time to time, we propose to reproduce snippets but before doing so may I also adopt the formula used in other circumstances but recorded in the diary "I apologise for anything I have said, am saying or may at any future time say". Reminiscing on the two Dublin Cathedrals Sir Charles wrote:

"These two historical buildings were the cradle and the nursery of music in Ireland. In them were trained the singers who made the first performance of the "Messiah" possible, and who compelled the warmest appreciation of the great Handel himself. But it was found either unsatisfactory or impossible to carry on a full Cathedral Service with a complete choir at both churches: and the other competitors, Trinity College Chapel and the Chapel Royal, required once on Sunday a full musical equipment. When I was a boy, one organist and one choir did duty for three of them: Trinity at 9.30 a.m., Christ Church at 11 a.m., St. Patrick's at 3 p.m. and Christ Church again in the evening. At Trinity after the anthem the choir all decamped out of the Chapel, and made off hot-foot for the Cathedral, dropping four or five singers on the way to do duty at the Chapel Royal. They all combined at three for "Paddy's Opera" and those that had any voice left dissipated the remains of it in the evening at Christ Church. They must speedily have been reduced to the state of mind which the late Walter Bache so unblushingly described to a professional friend, who meeting him one day after a long absence from London, asked him if he was still organist of - - - - Church. "No, no" said Bache. "It was really too d - - - - d demoralizing". And he had only to listen to "Dearly beloved brethren" twice a day, while the Dublin choirmen had four doses extending from 9.30 a.m. to 8.30

p.m. What a satire upon their duties must the reading of the injunctions about "vain repetitions" have sounded in their ears".

In the belief that many of our readers enjoy tales of Dublin in the good old days (see "Stout Ladies") we will continue to draw on the "Unwritten Diary" in future editions of the Newsletter. But before finishing this article may I remind you of what the diarist said concerning Christ Church:-

"The music was as good as, often better than St. Patrick's but there was no theatrical crowd here. Something in the noble atmosphere of the place made it unthinkable. Street's restoration was far more pious than that of the many cooks who spoilt the broth at St. Patrick's."

And finally at least for the present, the composer's recollection of holding musical examinations in Dublin. It was normal on the list of examinees for the surname to be placed first and the Christian name second. One name which attracted the examiner's attention was De Vine, Annie. "Are you De Vine Annie. or are you Annie De Vine?" he gently asked. Immediate answer (in a soft brogue) "You'll be able to tell that after you have heard me play".

H.F. Carroll.

STOUT LADIES

Sheila Lynch

Dublin just won't be the same without them - I am referring to the Guinness ships which were sold last year. I cannot remember a time, when passing over Butt Bridge, one or the other of those ships would not be tied up at Custom House Quay, or opposite on the South side.

My childhood was bound up with these fine ladies, as my father was Captain first of the S.S. Clarecastle, and then M.V. The Lady Gwendolen. Looking through his neatly kept photograph album the other day evoked a host of wonderful memories.

In 1759 Halley's Comet shot through the skies for the first time, and it was in that same year that Arthur Guinness paid £100 for an old disused brewery and set to work.

The first mode of transport began with twelve dray horses. How times changed. The first brewery owned ship (1913) was the W.M. Barkley which plied between Dublin/Liverpool/Manchester exporting stout and returning with the empty casks. Three more ships soon joined the fleet. The steamships Carrowdore, Clarecastle and Clareisland made their appearance in 1914. The first cost £15,000 and the others, given more speed and depth and fitted with cooling plants, cost £25,000 each.

As World War 1 was in progress the three ships were commandeered for war service and it was around this time that the Barkley was torpedoed near the Kish lighthouse with the loss of her captain and five of her crew.

In 1931 the S.S. Guinness, specially designed to carry stout appeared and the Clareisland was sold.

My father joined the firm in 1941, the year that I was born. Previously he had been with the Limerick Steamship Co. and had a very narrow escape from death when the Lumineach was sunk by enemy fire. My father's appointment was as First Mate on the Carrowdore and, almost unbelievably, he had another lucky escape when a 550lb German Bomb hit the foredeck, bounced off and exploded in the sea. Later he was given command of the Clarecastle.

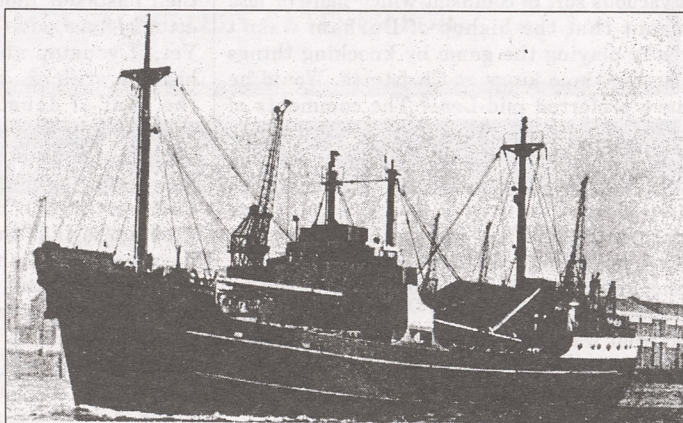
Many of my earliest memories are of happy visits with my brothers to that vessel which will always have a special place in my heart. Soon the first two motor ships arrived. The Lady Grania and the Lady Gwendolen were specially built for carrying beer in bulk. I particularly remember a very poignant occasion when the S.S. Guinness having been sold for scrap, en route to the Clyde, was making her way down river and the Lady Gwendolen arriving. My uncle was the engineer on that sad voyage. The new saluted the old with a series of blasts on her siren to which the S.S. Guinness replied with just one dignified blast of farewell. The tears still come to my eyes whenever I recall the scene. Twenty-five years after launching the Grania and the Gwendolen were sold and thus ended my connection with those stout ladies. My father retired after fifty four years of life at sea and both my dad and my uncle died within three

months of each other.

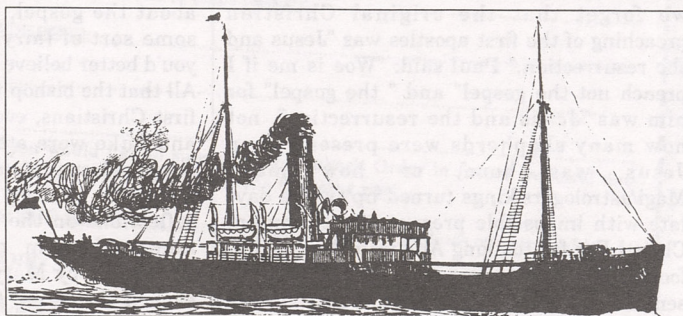
From barges laden with casks to be hoisted aboard to travelling goodness pumped directly into ships - now that's progress! But Dublin doesn't seem the same without those familiar ships tied up in the Liffey.

With ten million pints of Guinness being drunk every day, worldwide, it's a far cry from 1759 when the only mode of transport was twelve dray horses.

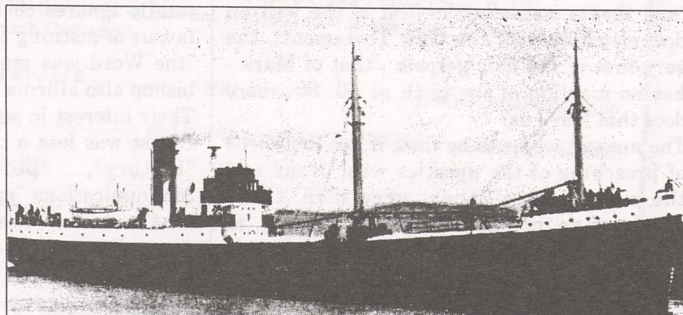
(This article was contributed by Sheila Lynch whose father the late Captain Cecil Meredith is the gallant captain referred to and who had two near brushes with death at sea. As Editor, I am deeply indebted to Sheila for giving us these glimpses of scenes from the not too distant past and for allowing us to share in her precious memories.)



"The Lady Gwendolen" - 1,166 gross tons.



Steamer "W.M. Barkley" (569 gross tons), first vessel in the Guinness fleet



"Guinness" - 1,234 gross tons.

BISHOP JENKINS AND THE WISE MEN

Preached: Christ Church Cathedral Dublin - Sunday 2 January 1994

The Very Revd John Paterson, Dean of Christ Church.

Christmas Eve - the shepherds had the limelight as Luke's gospel tells how they became the first visitors to the infant Christ.

The Epiphany - the gospel reading used for this morning's eucharist though the feast itself doesn't come until Thursday - Epiphany and the limelight switches to the Magi/Kings.

This Christmas, however, neither shepherds nor wise men got the limelight - all the limelight seemed to go to the bishop of Durham, Dr. David Jenkins! Even the Irish papers, with a fervour not normally given to English episcopal pronouncements, even they gave front-page coverage to Dr. Jenkins' doubts that there actually were three kings present at the birth of the Christ-child.

And then there were the not unexpected reactions. From Tory MPs in England - ever ready to have a bash at the Church of England. From the archbishop of Canterbury - a vacuous sort of comment which more or less meant that the bishop of Durham wasn't really playing the game by knocking things like the three kings at Christmas. Would he have preferred mid-Lent? The comments of certain other bishops - both Church of England and Roman Catholic as quoted in the Irish Times - were so unbelievably naive that one almost felt they much have been misquoted, had one not realised that they were simply wanting to have an easy uncomplicated life and not be bothered by trouble at Christmas.

So what was the bishop actually saying? And, taking this morning's gospel in particular, what were the scriptures saying in their generation and now in our own?

The trouble with Anglicans is that Charles Dickens has got us so hooked on Christmas we forget that the original Christian preaching of the first apostles was "Jesus and the resurrection." Paul said: "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel" and "the gospel" for him was "Jesus and the resurrection", not how many shepherds were present when Jesus was born, or how many Magi/astrologers/kings turned up twelve days late with impossible presents for the infant Christ! For far too long Anglican thought has focussed on Christmas rather than Easter: the sentimentality of Christmas is so much easier to live with than the blood and gore of Easter. But even forgetting Paul and the Epistles/letters to the various young churches (and they're actually the first of the written documents we call the New Testament), the very first of the four gospels - that of Mark - has no mention of the birth at all. So where does that leave us?

The answer seems to be that, if the first focus of preaching of the apostles was "Jesus and the resurrection", then, very soon, there developed an interest in secondary events - in presenting material derived from what was known of Jesus' public life and ministry. And, of course, there were many who'd been with him throughout that public ministry and who, as witnesses, could vouch for its accuracy.

Mark's gospel, dating from about 65 AD was the first to document it.

Then there was a further development. Between Mark's gospel and those of Matthew and Luke (possibly written down in the 80's of the first century) an interest arose in the "origins" of Jesus, the early background of Jesus, and what, if anything, those "origins" might mean for faith in Jesus as Lord. And it's this that the bishop of Durham was trying to explain to the lay-readers of his diocese in one of their training sessions. And it's this that got blown out of all proportion in the news media and on television.

The trouble with Dr. Jenkins is that his brain is so hyper-active he's able to think through a complete sequence of events while most people are still coming to grips with his first comment. People get left behind. They lose track of what he's actually saying. And on their mistaken understanding of what he may actually have said.

Yet, if you stop and carefully examine the bishop's writings - as against what he says in the heat of debate on television - you'll discover that he's saying nothing that hasn't been commonly understood by theologians and taught to theological students - for the best part of one hundred years. The real problem is that the clergy in the parishes have been reluctant to put real scholarship into their sermons. They say they don't want to disturb simple faith. What this sometimes seems to mean is that they're reluctant to tackle difficult subjects and try to put them into simple language. Perhaps they're even afraid of driving people out of the pews. What more often drives people from the pews is when we fail to communicate the real truth about the gospel, as when we treat it like some sort of fairy tale - unbelievable, but you'd better believe it, or else.

All that the bishop was telling us was that the first Christians, even the writers of Matthew and Luke were attempting to put the birth story of Jesus into a theological context. They weren't writing history. These were reflections on the birth of the Christ-child. Some of them might even have been reflections by Mary, told later to Luke. But even if they were that's not their point. It's not even the real interest of the gospel writers. Indeed the last of the gospels - John, written somewhere between 80 and 100 AD - totally ignores these known birth stories in favour of a strong theological affirmation that "the Word was made flesh" - something the bishop also affirms.

Their interest in writing up these "origins" of Christ was less a concern for communicating "history", perhaps more about communications "meaning" and "significance" for Christians whose primary belief lay in the central core of the gospel: "Jesus and the resurrection".

We could leave it there. We could even end this sermon at this point. But we're not going to! There's a very real parable to be gained for

today's Church from that early tradition that the first visitors of the infant Christ were the shepherds; followed later by the Magi/kings.

Just think how short a time it took for the kings to push the shepherds out of the limelight. That's always been the temptation for the Church - to let the powerful and the rich gain control.

The simplicity of the early Christian community - overwhelmed by the powerful Roman State demanding baptism in the person of Constantine. The bishops of those little persecuted Churches - becoming the Lords Spiritual in their palaces. The house churches where worshippers feared the knock at the door - transformed into the great cathedral and the baroque church with their gilt ornamentation. From the 12th century, the steeples and rooflines of Dublin's cathedrals dominating the inner city - until we got, in the 1980's Corporation macho-architecture and now in the 90's speculative yuppie apartments.

Not that anyone should ever have supposed that the Church could remain stuck in the grooves of its beginnings. There had to be development - but like all development it needed to be watched, and still needs to be watched. We've seen the need all too recently in the media reports on land development in Dublin city and county. The shepherds can still be pushed out. The presence of the Magi can still unwittingly be a danger to us all.

And Bishop Jenkins during the days of his sojourn in Durham, however he might describe today's gospel events, has also refreshingly made it clear for us just how the kings can push the shepherds into the background; he showed it by his support for the miners soon after his arrival; he showed it by his categorising as utter "wickedness" the British government's seeming lack of care for the poor. Of a truth the coal mines have been decimated since 1984. Of a truth the really poor still sleep on the streets.

The days of the sojourn of David Jenkins in Durham are rapidly drawing to their close. Like every bishop, every priest, every deacon he may not always have been wise in the manner in which he may have said things from the pulpit. Yet his voice has frequently been a prophetic one. There's a tendency in all the Churches today to seek out the safe, to choose for positions of leadership those who won't rock the boat, who might indeed be willing to say that Jonah swallowed the whale if it were demanded of them by authority. It may be understandable, but ultimately it's fatal for the church's integrity when the bland lead the bland.

Blandness is something of which no one could ever accuse David Jenkins! May he have long to enjoy his retirement, and even when, as sometimes, we may not always go the whole way with him, may he yet have many years left in which to provoke us into thinking.

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